What Hard Times Taught the Farmers of the Transmississippi Region.

STATISTICS OF NEBRASKA AND KANSAS

Profitable Returns from Diversified Crops\_The Lay of the Hen\_ Lessons of Economy .-Intellectual Giants

The fourth of Franklin Matthews' papers emerging from the slough of despond. The paper is as follows:

brought about these changes and developed corn and hay, equalled in value the surplus sold from the Kansas hens, ducks, tur the new farming in the middle west. In his keys and goese in the year named.

as much in one year as \$52,000,000. In 1897 it was worth \$28,000,000, a falling off of \$7.-100,000 an a year of plenty from the crop of the previous year. The wheat crop for the year 1897, according to the state statistics, was worth \$34,000,000. Up to last year it was nuteworthy that when there was a decline in the corn crop there was no decided increase in the wheat crop. In 1896 the wheat crop of the state was worth only \$13,000,000. Corn for thei year was worth \$25,000,000. In 1895 wheat was worth \$7,000,000; com, \$46,-000,000. In 1894 the wheat was worth \$11,-000,000; corn, \$25,000,000. In 1893 wheat was worth \$10,000,000; corn, \$32,000,000. But in the year 1897 wheat jumped past corn and these figures, issued by the State Department of Agriculture, show it: Value of 51,000,000 bushele of wheat, \$34,000,000; value of 152,-

000,000 bushels of corn, \$28,000,000.

Corn was dethroned in Kansas then and there. No crop of importance in the state had ever shown such a percentage of in-crease in one year as the wheat of 1897. The increase in production was a little more than 100 per cost, and the screase in value was almost 160 per cent over the previous year. Corn fell off in production, not in price, but was displaced as the leading crop of the state. It may have been a mer-coincidence that prosperity for the Kansas former arrived at the same time, thus enab ling Governor Leady to eay, in his Thanks giving proclamation:

"The attacks upon the state, to which it has been so long subject, have been discontinued, and the reputation of Kansze is again as good as its character always has been." DIVERSIFIED CROPS.

The great lesson shown by the dethrone ment of corn in Kansas is that the farmers To put it in another way, they are no longe carrying all their eggs in one basket. Al-though it has not paid to raise corn exclusively for several years, the Kaneas farmers kept on doing so. The hot winds is 1890 and 1894 reduced the crops to almost nothing, and in the other years the low prices had practically the same effect upon the farmer. Still, the farmer kept on raising corn. It had become second pature to It was cheaper to burn it as fuel than to sell it, but there was one thing in its favor; it could be fed to cattle, hogs and poultry, and these could fusish food, at least for the farmer. He could live during the hard times and the low prices, even i

he could not pay interest.

Feeding the corn to live stock had one other important effect. Hon, T. A. Hubbard, president of the Kansas Swine Breedere' association, called attention to it is 1895, when he said: "Why do farmers market 15-cen; corn, when it will bring them 30 cents it fed to hogs?" The farmers not only learned that the best way to sell corn was by transforming it into hogs, but into cattle and poultry, said the result was that of the \$40. 000,000 increase in the productivity of Kan-sas in 1897 one-half and a trifle more came from the increase in live stock. In other words, by the time that 1897 arrived the Kansas farmer had found out that there were other things than corn worth while raising, and that although corn was the largest crop, and must continue to be the largest crop, and miss continue to be the largest crop in the state, there were profitable ways of disposing of it other than by selling it at cost price or lower.

The farmer of the middle west last year

adapted his methods to his soil and to probable prices. It should be remembered that the state is a sloping plain. At the eastern end it has an elevation of 765 feet above the sea level, and at the western end the elevation is 3,365 feet, or a rise which is about seven feet to the mile. In the south-eastern quarter of the state the crops al-most never fall. The western half is given up to native grasses, and is called the shorgrass country. It is not productive of cereals under cultivation, owing to the altitude, the lack of water, and the condition of the soil.

Nature intended it for a live-stock-grazing country. Hon. Thomas M. Potter, president of the State Board of Agriculture is responsible for the statement that his cattle have gained three pounds a day in weight by feeding on these native grasses. It is in the western part of the state that the abau-doued towns and farms of the state are found. Farming, as carried on claewhere, did not pay; but it is in the western part of the state also that the revived cattle industry of Konsaa is flourishing. It was in the central west that the great wheat crop was raised. An analysis of the farm report is

RETURNS FROM STOCK.

The reports for 1897 show an increase of 300,000 head of cattle for slaughter in one That increase alone brought more than \$11,000,000 in the year's prosperity for the state. Last year the cattle for slaughter in Kansas numbered 1,600,000. In 1836 they numbered 1,300,000. The mileh cows increased 37,000, showing a considerable increase in the dairying industry. It is interesting to know that since the year 1877 the average product of a cow has increased from \$7.01 in cheese, butter and milk to \$9.65. This is due to a constant improvement in the grade of stock, and shows ac-other change in the farming methods. The The increase in the dairy products in 1897 over 1896 was \$300,000. The cost of maintaining a cow in Kansas le said to be 50 per cent

develops the fact that good mileh cows average \$35 to their owners a year, that the average feeding expense is about \$20, and that valuation is put on if it is not sold in the the average value of the cows is \$28. An state.
average profit of \$15 per cow on an invest-

Another interesting exhibit in the crop fig-ures for 1897 is that the number of swine increased more than 500,000 over the pre-vious year. That shows that Mr. Hubbard a advice as to the disposition of corn must have been followed extensively. Sheep in-creased in numbers more than 200,000; but there was a decrease in the number of horses in the state over the previous year. In 1896, there were \$46,000 horses in Kansas. In 1897 there were only 801,000 horses; but the satisfactory side to this decrease was the fact that, although there were 45,000 fewer horses, their value was 10 per cent greater than that of the horses of the previous year, rep-

WHAT KANSAS PRODUCES. So many persons have looked upon Kan published in the last number of Harper's sas as a "one-crop state" that it is worth Weekly deals with the agricultural develop- while to go further into the analysis of ment of Kansas and Nebraska. Although the what she produces. One of the most note-

\$2,000,000

three preceding papers dealt largely with crop statistics, the supply was not exhausted and a few are added in groups to give the finishing touches to the picture of prospectly secretary of the Hoard of Agriculture on this topic, dated March 31, 1897. Mr. Co-burn says, in his interesting western way of

It should be recorded, in strict regard for truth, that in the year of our Lord eighteen value of Kansas poultry and eggs sold was hundred and ninety-seven econ ceased to be \$3,668,815, or 19 per cent more than the en-king in Kansas. The empire was overthrown by a revolution and that revolution consisted of changes in farming metiods. To go back further in the logic of events, it is truthful to say that the hard times a goal measure brought about these changes in a great measure.

report in March, 1896, the secretary of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture caid:

"In no year of the state's history has the value of the wheat approached in magnitude of \$175,000. Its value was nearly twice for \$95 per cent) greater than the same year's con-That statement was true then. In the output of lead and sine from our mines, contwenty-five years closing with the year 1895 ceded to be of great richness, and within 23 the average annual value of the Kanana corrector was \$31,000,000 and the total value of the value of all the coal mixed that in no way did the place differ from sature asked in those years was the coordinate that the total paid in the state to be of great richies, ind within 23 of a saloon in that in no way did the place differ from sature asked in those years was the coordinate than the total paid in the state too in that town of about 3,000 persons, and was worth \$35,000,000. The crop in 1896 for teachers' wages and school supervision; the monthly fines, in lieu of license, went a was worth \$35,000,000. It had been worth more than three times as much as the total great ways toward the support of the schools. combined amounts paid for school sites buildings, furniture, rent, repairs, districlibrary and school apparatus, fuel, sceldentals, and all other school purposes excepsalarles. In fact, the poultry came within about 14 per cent of paying the entire cost of the public schools."

The poultry and eggs in 1897 brought \$250. 000 more to the state than in 1896, and much of it may have been due to the fostering care of the Department of Agriculture Here it is proper to call attention to the work that this department does for the farmers of the state. Not only has it a system of correspondence probably unmatched by any other state in the union, but it keeps constantly in touch with all sorts of farm ers, and notifies them frequently as to the results in important experiments. It issue its reports quarterly, and they are not the out and dried affairs that such documents usually are. They not only epatain infor-mation, but entertaloment. They are prepared method he employs in looking after the affairs of his department. His reports bear in red ink such titles as these "Cow Culture," "The Helpful Hen." "The Beef Steer

THE HELPFUL HEN.

These reports contain not only a "breezy stroduction" by Mr. Coburn, but miscellany of all sorts relating to the subject dealt with. There are not only long tables of stalistics in them, but excerpts from newspaers, and also essays and pictures. So desir of my visit to Mr. Coburn he asked me to ift a basket full of letters and guess the reight. There were twenty-five pounds o tters that had just arrived, and all were equests for copies of the "Helpful Hen." Hustrating the sentiment that lies under the urface in Mr. Coburn, one may find printed red ink on the cover of this book, and reetly under its title, these words which eing without quotation marks, and also be-ing somewhat sentimental and eloquent in Kansas way, I take to be the output of

While everything else was going to rack nd ruin, she (the 'Helpful Hen') increased nd multiplied; she supported herself and the family, too. The very insects that would have despoiled the farm she fattened upon, laying her daily egg—the blessed egg that took the place of beef and milk, mutton and pork—and in good time, after all these servces, surrendered her toothsome body

the cause of humanity."

Almost the first article in this report one clipped from the Western Farmer and written by A. L. Crosby. It gives, in imita-tion biblical language, the conversation between a husband and wife as to their ex-periment in raising poultry. The wife had agreed to buy all the grain needed for the poultry of her bushand, and he in turn agreed to pay her the market price for all the eggs and chickens that were consumed in the household, and this account of their

settlement is given;
"Then the lord of the manor taketh or his little book, and showeth unto his wife how many measures of grain she had bough of him and the price thereof and that she was indebted unto him to the amount of seventy-five dollars lawful money.

"Then his wife said unto him: "Give me the price of a measure of corn, also of cat-and of other grains, that I have had of thee, and he having done so, she looketh over he parchment whereupon she had marked the rice of the merchant for those grains, an mount of dollars to sixty and five, which she showeth to the lord of the maner, and explaineth the matter unto him, and sayeth into him: 'My lord is a just man and would not defraud even his wife; behold, this is the price of the merchant who keepeth ti market at the place where the roads de

"And the lord of the manor said: 'Let it as thou wilt.' (For he thought he was

and with a voice of exceeding aweetness dis tell unto the lord of the manor how many score of dozens of eggs they had consumed and how many dozens of chickens they had eaten, both fried and rozsted, and the price the merchant received for the eggs and the chickens, and the price thereof was for the eggs from 15 to 30 cents per dozen, and when the blizzard arcse in the land the price for the space of two weeks was 40 cents. And the price of the chickens was from \$2 to \$4 a dozen, and the sum of the whole

was just \$125 more than the cost of the "And the woman said: 'Pay unto me \$120 and take thou the \$5 and buy thyself a piece of sackcloth, and I will furnish the ashes

free.' (For there was nothing mean abou Is there any wonder that the requests for such an attractive official compilation come in by the pound, and that the result is that the farmer of Kansas profits by the serious side of the story it tells?

SIDE LINES OF PROSPERITY

a cow in Kansas is said to be 50 per cent less than in New England.

As indicating that the dairy business will return a liberal profit if conducted wise y the annual report of the commissioner of labor—the man who collects most of the Kansas statistics except those collected by the Department of Agriculture—said, in 1895;

There has never been a time in western Kansas when a farmer out of debt, and with a family of five, could not make a good living with twenty cows, provided he devoted enough time to the raising of Kaihr corn to make feed for them. An investigation of results, made by J. E. Nissley, a practical Dickinson county creamery man, develops the fact that good milch cows average \$35 to their owners a year, that the avage of the content of the county of the county of the county of the county \$4,000,000; in the county \$4,000,000;

of the state; that the vineyards number 7,121; be that twice out of three times will be that the number of gallons of wine produced was 231.364, which, at 75 cents a gallon, was worth \$173.522—a neat little sum for such an industry in a prohibition state! Closec an industry in a prohibition state! Closec an industry in a prohibition state! Closec an industry raising the most wine is Decipina. Up to 1890 the farmer to the middle west which has a record of 497 vineyards, producting the state of the map of Kansas shows that Doniphan county is in the very north-extern corner of the state, adjoining the states of the commonst sights in the Nebraska and Missouri. enting an increase in value of more than

SLAKING HIS THIRST. Perbaps one hint as to the consumption of same carelessness to some extent Kanasas wine may be had from an experience days. In my recent trip through the eastern I had at supper in a hotel in Moryaville, in end of the state from north to south the northern central part of the state, one I saw perhaps fifty farms where farm maevening. I noticed a decanter in the center chinery was left expected to the weather, but

said to the waiter girl: "What is in that decanter?" "I don't know, eir."

"Is it wine?"

"I don't know, sir." 'Well, it's something to drink?" "It looks that way."
"Is it given away with the meals here?"

"See Gere, mister, I think you had better biste some of that, and if you are the kind of man you look, you won't ask any more questions of me in this prohibition state." Although I was squelched, I did follow directions. It was a fair brand of port wins, and although it may be a style known only in Kacsas to furnish such a product at supsame town that I found a big wooden sign steetching clear across the sidewalk from building to the curb, on the busiest block in the main street, which read, "Are you dry?" Then a hand with a finger poluted at the door of a saloon in full blost. I went in and found and other institutions. Percaps Kansas wine goes into many of these calcons.

NEBRASKA STATISTICS. It is not easy to get erop statistics in Nebraska, for the reason that the State Board of Agriculture devotes itself chiefly to a state fair once a year, and not to the kind of work that is done in Kansus. You may gather facts about Nobraska mortgages casier than about Nebraska mortgages casier than about Nebraska crops and products. The Omaha Bee, early in October, published an estimate of the quantity and value of crops in that state for 1897, and Governor Holcomb sent me personally what he said was the estimate of the secretary of the State Reard of Agriculture. The figures in tate Board of Agriculture. The figures in both cases are identical, and I am unable say whether the secretary got them from the Bee or the Bce got them from the secre

tary, inasmuch as neither gives the other credit. The chief fact about the Nebraska figures is that they show that corn is still king is that commonwealth. The value of the 33, by Secretary Coburn, whose work is so that commonwealth. The value of the 33,one official of importance that the populties did
braska, \$23,000,000; of the 230,000,000 bushels of wheat raised was in Neofficial of importance that the populties did
braska, \$23,000,000; of the 230,000,000; of the 50,iot oust when they came into full possession els of corn raised, \$42,000.000; of the 69.

of the state government. Mr. Coburn is a 000,000 bushels of oats. \$10,000,000; of the nan of decided sentiment, which is mixed 5,000,000 bushels of rye, \$1,800,000; of the man of decided sentimens, which is a produced business of 15t, 400,000. The total up in a picture sque way with the practical 4,600,000 tons of hay, \$14,000,000. The total method he employs in looking after the value of the farm products at local markets. ket prices was \$00,000,000; dairy products \$9,500,000; eggs, \$2,250,000; poultry, \$5,500. 000; live stock, \$44,000,000—a total of more than \$161,000,000, against a total of \$230, 000,000 for 1897 raised in Kansas.

COST OF RAISING WHEAT. There has been so much diversity of opin ion as to the cost of raising wheat and corn by the acre and bushel and the consequent profit in that branch of farming in the west. Kansas is in the growth of her farms and

cheat culture: sends the State Agricultural department an estimate, which he says many good farmers approve or have verified, showing the dist which wheat can be and is raised for in that county, on lands that can be bought for and \$10 to \$12 per acre, and give yields ranging anywhere from fifteen to forty bushels per

acre. His figures are as follows: COST OF AN ACRE OF WHEAT. Interest on land (\$15 per acre), at 8 per

On the foregoing basis he places the cost per bushel on different yields per acre, in-cluding 6 cents per bushel in each instance

for thrashing, thus: Fifteen bushels per acre cost. \$ 34 Eighteen bushels per acre cost. 29 Twenty bushels per acre cost. 27 Twenty-five bushels per acre cost. 227

It is on record that in 1889 E. F. Burch field of Harper county raised an average of 42% bushels on a twenty-acre field; J. P. Mirker of Elisworth county the same year aised fifty bushels per acre on 130 Israel McComas of Jackson county, had fifty one bushels average on a nineteen-acre field; and Warren Fulton of Pottawatomic county harvested fifty-four bushels per acre from said of them and their vagaries, they are eighteen acres. Secretary Coburn has no already beginning to produce giants in in doubt later thrashing will show that these figures have in many instances been surpassed this year (1897) in Sumner, Cowley IMPRO and other counties, but suggests it would be a mistake for everybody to "rush into wheat," expecting to acquire fortune through realizing the phenomenal yields men-

Bank Commissioner Breidenthal tells m that in some of the places where the phenomenal wheat yields have come he known of instances where the cost of ing it was even as low as 10 cents a bushe ing it was even as low as 10 cents a bushel. But those, of course, are extreme caser, and for the purposes of computing general profits are useless. As to the cost of raising corn, perhaps the best figures to be obtained are those furnished by J. W. Robson of El Dorado, Kan, who is known as the "Corn King" of the state. Mr. Robison has had an experience covering forty-seven crops in Kansas and Illinois, and has had recently nearly 3,000 acres under cuttivation. He nearly 3,000 acres under cultivation. gives as the cost a bushel of raising corn what is known as "check growing." 1714 cents; by listing, 15 cents. He tella of com-phenomenal crops where the cost of produe ng the corn up to the time it was store at the cribs was only 7% cents a bushe One of these years was 1889.

NEBRASKA CROPS. So much also has been said to the effect that a good crop is the exception rather than the rule in the middle west that I here reproduce a little table that was compiled for

me by a state official in Nebraska:

"The large yields of grain in Nebraska since the settlement of the state are sufficient guarantee for great crops in the fu-The Nebraska crop report, compile

from official information, shows the following condition for each year from 1869 to 1897:	
1809	
1870Fallure.	1885Good erop.
1871	1856 Good crop.
1872Good erop.	1887 Short crop.
1873 Short crop.	1888
1874 Fallure.	1889
1875	1890 Failure.
1876Good erop.	1991
1877	1892Good erop.
1878Good erop.	1883 Short crop.
1879 Good crop.	1864 Fallure.
isso Short crop.	1895 Fair crop.
1881Good crop.	1856
1882Good crop.	1897
1882Good crop. 1883Good crop.	
	Constitution of the second

In other words, there have been in twenty ine years in Nebraska four big crops, sixment of \$28, besides the raising of a calf, tary of the Board of Agriculture, issued early ing in those states. There have been more Thursdays at 2:30 p. m.

BRIGHT SKIES OF THE WEST is not a bad business transaction, considering that the feed is raised without expense in no less than eighty-two of the state; that the vineyards number 7,121; be that twice our of three times will be

Nebraska and Missouri. Nebraska and Missouri or not prohibition states and if the Such carelessness was almost criminal fact has any relation to Doniphan county's Splendid reapers and the other costly ma-wine production other than a mere coinci-dence, of course that is another story. Splendid reapers and the other costly ma-though they were of no more value than the ordinary wheelbarrow. You see the

ECONOMY IN LITTLE THINGS. mest successful farmers in Nebraska, who agents will drop dead from surprise, has made more than \$100,000, starting with The results of the deep cuts into n not hold on for fabulous prices with the ruin that often follows in their trail. The farmer has also learned to plow deep and to keep on giving the sail on which his crops name of the hotel. I was told that they had free cherry for breakfast. It was in that tle or sheep is a desirable thing to raise, in addition to corn and wheat, and that hogo are the best paying scavengers a farm In other words, he has become convinced that farming is not only a business, calling for the exercise of business principles, but that it is a science, and to some extent an art, requiring a delicate adjustment of nature's gifts to sound economic principles. One man put it in another way that is blunter and perhaps more expressive when he said to me: "You

will see very little more fool farming in this etate hereafter.' ernor Felt at Topeka recently, before the State Board of Agriculture. He said:

000 in 1860 to 1,334,734 in 1895 is not poor, and cannot be made poor save by her own people. Of that population 1,000,000 dwell subside of the ninety-five towns and cities baving over 1,000 population. Our increase in population since 1887 is 45 per cent; increase in acreage of winter wheat, over 200 per cent; increase in acreage of corn, 50 per cent; increase in acreage of tame grass 120 per cent; increase in acreage of all

field crops, over 100 per cent.
"Kansas cannot be poor when in thirtypays less than \$120,000 a year to support paupers; but she has built in thirty-five years 8,000 public school houses, and owns \$9,000,000 worth of public school property. No people can be poverty-stricken whose homes have \$2,000,000 in private libraries, and where more magazines and newspapers. the abiding success of the brave men t home, and from the homes have builded a state. Only the secret archives of God's recording angel can reveal the secret, patient, long-suffering, beroic struggle of the brave, loyal wives and mothers who have presided as ministering angels at omes and firesides on the plains of Kan-

What Governor Felt says is true. I can pear personal testimony as to the reading the farmers do. I stopped in one of three book stores in a town of 8,000 people, and asked the proprietor how large a sale of monthly magazines and weekly periodicals he had. He told me that he sold more than 500 copies of the various magazines a month and that his sale of weeklies was also large. He mentioned that he sold seventy-five copies each week of Harper's Weekly. the time he gave me the information he had no knowledge that I was more than an ordinary visitor to the town from New York. This was the record in only one of three stores, and, of course, was in addition to what came to town by subscription through the mails. One of the foremost editors in Chicago

ald to me, when I started for Kausas and "A great public man said to me twenty five years ago: An American race of giants is to come out of the middle west.' I think you'll find indications of it. They are the most intelligent people on earth. The native-born population number 90 per cent of the whole. They have had hard times and have been in distress, but whatever may be said of them and their vagaries, they are

IMPROVING THE COURT HOUSE Plans for Making the Pile More Fit

Under Consideration. The members of the Board of County Com

missioners are seriously considering the advisability of making some extensive improvements about the court house and county jail this spring, the idea being to have them completed during the early summer.

Superintendent Houck and all of the com missioners have come to the conclusion that the sewerage and ventilation of the county building is absolutely worthless, and instead of the foul air being carried from the building it is released and sent through the rooms, at times making their condition very offensive. This condition they say is due to the fact that when the bullding was con tion. Moreover, they say that there are no plans in existence showing that any system was followed in placing places. was followed in placing pipes and air

If the ideas of the officials are carried int effect, the county building will be completely overhauled and a new system will be put into the building, making it modern in every respect, at the same time making the ven-illation perfect. As yet no figures have been made of the cost of the changes con-templated, though it is known that it will equire an expenditure of several hundred at

In addition to rearranging the sewerage and ventilation systems of the court hous the commissioners are looking into the advisability of fitting up some jury rooms in the upper story of the building. The upper story at this time is unoccupied, except for storage purposes. The ceilings are high, and by cutting some windows in the roof, the commissioners contend that they can thus scrure another floor and have a number of ortable rooms that can be used for of fices if it should be necessary.

As) Wednesday services will be conducted by Dean Campbell Rair at 8:20 to 8:40 a. m 10:30 to noon. 4:15 to 5 p. m., and 8 to

Looked Forward to as Likely to Indicate What Form Hostillities Will Take,

The general passenger agents of the lines entering Omaha will attend the meeting of western lines in Chicago on Thursday of this week, which has been called in the hope, ing the Great Eastern Fast Freight line. of the table filled with something red and it was the rare exception and not the of clearing away the storm clouds that now hang over the northwestern rate situation. The general passengers agents of all inter-Another thing that the hard times taught ested lines have been invited to attend, but was economy in little things. The farmers it's dollars to pan-cakes that the Canadian of Kansas are now saving manures and Pacific will not send any representative to making use of them. They are improving the meeting. If the Canadian rate-cutter is their breeds of cattle and poultry. They are the meeting. If the Canadian rate-cutter is studying markets and prices. One of the represented several Omaha general passenger

The results of the deep cuts into northrothing, told me that one of the secrets of western rates are now in evidence on the his success was to take "sure winnings," and south of Omaha as well as on the porth south of Omaha as well as on the north. The demoralization is evidently not confined to the Twin Cities on the north, for reliable reports from Kansas City indicate that the Chicago Great Western road is selling tickets from there to St. Paul over its own line, and from there to Seattle, Tacoma and even Portland, over either the Canadian Pacific or the Great Northern for comething \$16,614, an increase of \$405. For the second like \$25 per capita, or about half the regular week in January gross earnings of this road tariff rate. With the situation so far from standard a points all about Omaha, it will be strange indeed if the rates out of here to the northern Pacific coast points are maintained. But as yet there is no open break on the part of any of the Omaha lines to exart the trouble by slicing off a few dollars from the regular rates. At least that's what the passenger officials solemnly maintain.

The object of the meeting on Thursday is complished in Kansas in about thirty-five lines to learn what the other American lines to learn what the other American lines industry, he will be inclined to the farming propose to do to meet the competition. industry, he will be inclined to think that there has been after all very little "fool farming." Agriculture has developed there logically and along simple lines, the lines does nothing more, it will enable us to work of least resistance. What it has accom-plished in these years has been summed up best, I think, in an address given by ex-Gov-other is doing. The meeting on Thursday will probably result in some action whereby State Board of Agriculture. He said:

"Kansas is not poor; she is rich. A meet the competition from the north as a state whose population has gone from 107.- unit. We will then know just what the other ilnes are doing toward meeting this cutcompetition. It is hardly probable that the Canadian Pacific will be represented at the meeting, though it will be invited to be present.

### COLORADO RAILROAD MEN IN TOWN. Representatives of the Passenger De-

partments Come with Boomers, W. H. Firth, general agent of the Rock Island's passenger department at Denver, is five years she has built 5,000 churches at a a member of the visiting exposition commis-cost of \$6,000,000. Kansas is not poor; she sion from Colorado. Mr. Firth is one of the best known as well as popular railroaders in the west. For seventeen years he the Stendard Coupler company, Cox of the was connected with the passenger department of the Chicago, Burlington & Quiney Pickering Spring company of Philadelphia road and for a long term of years represented Plumb of the Michigan Peninsular Car comthe Burlington's lines in New York state. Then he was with the Great Western road of Canada and lated returned with the Burlington for a short period. He has been connected with the Rock Island at Denver as general agent of the passenger departing the state of the passenger departing the state of the passenger departing the state of the minimum of the Milwaukee & St. Paul: The state of the passenger departing the state of the passenger departing the state of t ment since 1890, and during the last seven years has come to occupy a high place in the official family of General Passenger Agent

William F. Bailey, general passenger agen of the Colorado Midland railway, is in the sion. He reports western passenger busines very good, despite the demoralized rates to the north, and says that the Colorado Mic land has secured its share of the Klondike travel so far, and expects to get more. M. Bailey is well known here, and is as muc thought of as his predecessor, Charles is Lee, who left the Midland to go to Philadel phia to become general passenger and ticke agent of the Lehigh Valley rairoad. Mi Bailey is enthusiastic regarding the exposi tion, and promises to do his best to inducthe people of his state to numerously atten-

"Governor Joe Milner" is one of the proent railroaders who accompanied the Colo rado exposition commission to Omaha. He he city ticket agent of the Burlington sys tem in Denver, and has represented the road in that capacity ever since the line was exended into Denver, fifteen years ago s a prominent figure in all matters pertain ng to church, state and society in Colorado and is one of the landmarks in railway cir des in the Rocky Mountains. It is said b belongs to more clubs, secret societies, danc-ing organizations and political alliances than man in Denver, and is well equipped to head a state delegation to the Transmissis sippi Exposition.

### REVERSES A UNION PACIFIC CASE. Damage Suit from Utah Must Be Tried

Over. ST, LOUIS, Feb. 22.-In the case of Maris George against S. H. H. Clark, Oliver W. Mink, E. Ellery Anderson, John W. Doane and Frederic R. Coudert, receivers of the Union Pacific, the decision of the district court of Utah was reversed and the case remanded for another trial.

Mrs. George's son, Frederick, was killed in Salt Lake City in 1896 while engaged by the Union Pacific in the capacity of switch man. The jury in the case was g peremptory instructions to find for the fendants on the claim that George was guilty of culpable negligence.

No class of men are more thoroughly con vinced of the extent of superstition among Americans than are the railroaders. have many opportunities to observe the co always light on Fridays. There is also son opposition to traveling on any train that in numbered 13, or is drawn by a locomotive caring the number 13.
But a case that beats all previous record

has just come to the attention of the Bur lington's general passenger department this city. A passenger bought a ticket a point in Nebraska, and when he looke at it after boarding the train, he four that it bore the number 6.241, which figure added together made 13. He got off the enger Agent Francis with the following le

Dear Sir: Would you just as soon chang the ticket to some other number, as my dealings with No. 13 have been so very unsatisfactory. I do not want to run up against it any more than I can possibly help, and this 6-2-4-1 combination is just about as hot as 13 itself.

Ticket Thieves Caught.

CHICAGO, Feb. 22.—The mystery sur ounding the robbery of the Texas & Southern ra lroad ticket office at Phoenix, Ariz. about month ago, at which time \$8,000 worth of lickets and \$700 in money were taken, was teen good crops, four short crops, one fair crop and only four crop failures. The same weather conditions practically prevail in Kansas as in Nebraska, and it is safe to assume that the same statistics are true of the neighboring state. If the law of average holds good in farming as in other califics, it would seem to be not a difficult thing to prepare for the poor years in farming in those states. There have been more

before the police arrived the robbers had es-caped. They were traced to El Paso, thence finally to Chicago, where they were arrested

city, but will spend considerable time it traveling through this territory, Kansas City and Sioux City being included within his field. The National Despatch Transportation company operates a differential freight line over the Grand Trunk railway, and the new over the Grand Trunk railway, and the new agency in Omaha has been created for the purpose of soliciting westbound shipments. The eastbound shipments will continue to be looked after by Charles F. Rogers, represent-

Railroad Notes and Personals. W. W. Ryder, superintendent of the tele-graph department of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad, was in the city yesterday George W. Loomis, assistant to General Manager Holdrege of the B. & M., has resouth.

The various railroad headquarters in Omaha observed Washington's birthday by

Dr. Ferguson, surgeon of the Burlington vallroad voluntary celled department, with headquarters in Hannibal, has received no-tice of his transfer to St. Joseph, Mo. to take effect March 1. He will be succeeded at Hannibal by J. J. Brown of Wymore, Neb ern for the first week in January were were \$102,002, an increase of \$1,933. From July 1 to February 14 gress carnings show azine and newspaper literature for nearly a an increase of \$511,939.

G. W. Broski one of the gitest engineers G. W. Broski one of the aldest engineers on the lowa division of the Rock island, is in the city visiting his son-to-law. Willier Harding, assistant city massinger and ti ket agent of the Missouri Pacific. Mr. Broski pulled one of the first trains ever run late Council Bluffs over the Rock Island line, and as soon as he recovers from a slight illness will return to his post in the cnb., It is reported that a new fast train will e put on the Burlington between St. Louis and Denver, via St. Joseph, Mo. The train will connect at Lincoln with the fast train from Chicago, The proposed fast train is scheduled to Icaye St. Louis at noon every day. It is also reported that the Burlington has purchased a number of new engines for fast work which will be utilized in the passenger service.

W. D. Cornish of St. Paul, appointed special mester to conduct the Union Pacific and Kansas Pacific raies by Judge Walter Sau-born of St. Paul, is in the city. He speni yesterday morning conferring with General John C. Cowin, special counsel for the government, and later with Horace G. Burt president of the reorganized Union Pastill Bullroad company, Master in Chancery Cornish thinks the Kan on Puelfic will be formally transferred to its new owners about

A number of agents of rillway supply houses yesterday called on President Bur of the Union Pacific regarding the order for 500 new box cars that will soon be placed by the new management of the "Overland Route." Among them were Messrs. Post of pany of Detroit and Ferry of the Chicago Tire and Spring company.

tended to include the Superior division; the office of assistant general freight agent Superlor division, is abollehed; W. E. Tyle, is appointed division freight agent and pas-senger agent of the Superior division, with office at Milwaukee. E. D. Sewall has been appointed general northwestern agent of the Milwaukce, with office at Minneapolis.

The Union Pacific made a fast run with the Chicago Special on Monday night from Julesburg, Colo., to Omaha. The tain is scheduled on the time card to run abou orty-eight miles an hour with the cegularain of five cars. On account of the presence of the numerous party from Colorado the train on Minday night carried eleven heavy tars. The train was delivered to the Union Pacific at Jule burg by the Union Pacific Denver & Gulf road forty-six minutes late but pulled into Omaha exactly at the scheduled time 7 a. m.

## CUTS OFF BUSINESS OF BROKERS

a Direct Effect.
The action of the Board of Education Mon day night in instructing the secretary not to receive any more assignments of werrants i knock-down blow to the warrant brokers who have been accustomed to do a profitable business with school board employes. The practice of shaving warrants with the brokers has become so general that the board has ome to regard it as a nuisance. Fully twothirds of the men employed in the building department, as well as a large number of janitors are said to be regular customers of the brokers. They hawk their pay as fas as it is due, and when pay day comes the brokers have their money and they repeat the borrowing process. Members of the the borrowing process. Members of the board declare that in this way a considerable amount of money is transferred every month from the families of employes to the pockets of the brokers. The practice also knyolves vast amount of additional work in the office of the secretary, and it is contended that t has a tendency to promote shiftless habiti on the part of employes.

SHORTENS THE SCHOOL YEAR

Months is Enough.

The proposition that is now pending to close all the public schools except the High school on May 27, or at the end of nice months of school, will be carried out unless there is a radical change of sentiment on the part of members of the board. There are two One is the desirability of saving clean \$15,000, and the other is that on account of the opening of the exposition the additional two weeks of school would not result in any benefit to the pupils. It is believe that the stirring incidents that will accompany the opening of the exposition would make the children so restless that their attention could not be kept to their books and that the money expended for the additional view is very generally held by members of he board and in all probability the school will not attempt to compete with the expisi-

Proceeds of the Bonds Will Be De-voted to Original Purpose.

tion for the attention of the children.

At the meeting of the Board of County Commissioners, to be held next Monday, it s likely that the resolution providing for a transfer of \$25,000, a portion of the balance of the proceeds of the exposition bonds, will be turned over to the exposition management. Several of the commissioners have discussed the matter and all agree that the exposition people should be allowed to exsend this money, they knowing best what is

# DENVER MEN ON THEIR CITY

Charms of the Queen City Hold Them Steadfast.

FORMER CMAHANS LOYAL TO NEW LOVE

Mayor McMurray Talks About Some Municipal Matters Colonel Byers' Reminiscences Jud Brush and Fitz Mac as Boomers,

The party of prominent citizens and good fellows that came in from Denver yesterday to take a preliminary survey of the marvels in architectural and landscape adornment that the Transmississippi Exposition will spread before its visitors includes a number of individuals who are not unknown to Omaha people. The record of T. H. Mc-Murray as mayor of Denver has made his name familiar to everyone who is interested turned from a pleasant sojourn through the in municipal affairs. Then there is William N. Byers, who was a citizen and city official of Omaha when the town was but a knot of cabins in a wast wilderness of forest and closing at noon. The city offices were kept ragged bluffe. He made the original survey open throughout the day. now comprised in the limits of Omaha and old residents will remember the Poppleton Gross carnings of the Chicago-Great Westthat no white foot had ever pressed. The party also includes James McCarthy, better known by his literary title of Fitz Mac, under which he has been a contributor to magquarter of a century, and several others who have been prominently identified with the commercial and industrial progress of the

CLEANING DENVER'S STREETS.

In connection with the problem in street leaning that is before the local authorities this year Mayor McMurray's ideas on the subject are of marked interest. In Denver the street cleaning is under the direct su-pervision of the executive and Mayor McMuray is thoroughly familiar with its operain. As there are only about fourteen miles of paved streets in Danver as compared with early eighty miles to Omaha, the task is omewhat less complex than the one which onfronts the Omaha officials. Murray says that he has found that the ma-chines are more effective than hand cleaning for general purposes. He has a small gang of men who are kept at work in the central business district but their time is largely occupied in picking up piles to refhis territory is swept every night as well is the other paved districts. Mayor McMurray is using one of the "pick-

pp' muchics similar in principle to those which the Board of Public Works propises o try on the Omala streets. He ways that he work of the machine is very satisfactory a the center of the arrest, but of course a gutter machine is negative to the roughly clean the gutters. His experience has shown that the dusters machine is parially a fiction. The pick-up machine makes comparatively little dust but he finds it. necessary to sprinkle ahead, as is done with he old-fashioned swarpers.

The difference in the cost of street-cleaning in Deaver and in Omaha is somewhat striking when the comparative extent or paved streets is considered. Mayor McMurray says that the appropriation for that purpose this year is about \$35,000, and that is insufficient to do the w rk as it should be done. Omaha has four times as many miles of pavements as Denver and the average width of the streets is considerably greater. has an exposition to entertain this year the appropriation for street cleaning is about \$21,000. The appropriations for the fire and police departments are also materially larger in Denver than in this city. Denver has appropriated \$141,000 for its fire department and \$124,000 for its police department. The app opriations for the same departments in Omaha are \$125,000 and \$119,000 respectively.

CHAT WITH A PIGNEER.

During the moraling quite a number of the old residents of Omalia () shed the hotel to chat with Mr. Eyers, whom they had known in the early days, but the latter courteously d'sengaged himself leg exough to talk triefly of his recollections of Omalia as it was in the '50s, 'I came to Omalia as 1854." said Mr. Byers, between handshakings, 'and when I first saw the territory that is grow expected. that is now covered by your magnificent city it was broken only by a single frame house, which stood very near where the courser of Flitecoth and Harney streets is now. At that time it was owned by a man named Peterson, and it was occupied as a boarding house by the men who were makng the brick for the first territorial capitol ing the brick for the first territorial capitol, I remained in Omaha for five years, and during that time I served as a member of the city council and of the territorial assembly. For Omaha had a city government even in those days and I assisted very largely in laying out the original city. The first survey was made by A. D. Jones, who laid out a plat which included about 200 screes in what is now occupied by the central part of the city. Soon after I surveyed the additional territory which brought the platted territory up to about 640 acres, and platted territory up to about 640 acres, and then I made the plats of a number of seaster claims which were afterward added to the city. I also made the first govern-ment surveys in eastern Nebraska and run the township lines from the Kansas line to the Blackbird agency, at a point very nearly possite the present site of Sloux City. Mr. Byers added that he had rel Mr. Byers added that he had retained property interests in Omaha until about ten years ago, and he had watched the growth of the city with pride. Since he went to Denver in 1859 he had frequently passed such accasion he was pleased to see the indications of advancement. He sincerely hoped that the exposition would laungurate an era of recoved press erity.

n era of renewed presserity. Lieu enent Coverner I rush said he retained a lively recollection of Omaha as he saw it when he crossed the Missouri from Council Bluffs in 1857. It was then merely a group

of unpretentions buildings, and gave little promise of its future development. He still contended that Denver was the greatest town on earth, but was not unwilling to concede Omaha a title to second place. WHOOPS IT UP FOR DENVER.

Fitz Mac, like the rest of the Denver ex-cursionists, is a boomer. In fact, no one could get within a couple of miles of the rowd without being struck by the unanimity with yhich they whoon 'er up for their city. But in a burst of unfidence, he came very near admitting that Omaha was almost equal to Desiver. He was especially struck by the tremendous investment that Omaha had made in mile after mile of pavements and was curious to know with what degree of success asphalt had been used. He said that eaving was comparatively a new thing in Server. The peculiar nature of the soil made list roads altogether delightful, except during the periods when an infant formado tears down from the mountain canyons and whirls the dust in choking gyrations. The whiris the dust in choking gyrations. The soil is so saidy that the water see is away almost es rapidly as it falls, and mud is almost unknown. The surface packs into a rubber-like road, which is particularly favorable for driving and with this natural advantage, the bulk of the paying has so far been confined to the breiness district.

Mr. McCartity declares that Colorado, like Nebiaska, is experiencing a decided devival of enterprise. The hard times had affected theory like all other western cities, but it is recovering with rapid strides. The worst

s recovering with rapid strides. The worst result of the hard times, in his opinion, was their effect on the spirit of the people. A lew years ago when snything was suggested that promised to help the city everyone was at the front with enthusiastic co-operation and a handful of money. The tendency of hard times was to dampen this spirit in Den-ver as well as elsewhere. With the return of prosperity courage is revived and the pen e are again ready to help push a good thing